Ranthambhore & Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2003-09. Central Assistance will be provided to States for creation of STPF in remaining 10 Tiger Reserves in 2009-10. Since then, the guidelines of the STPF have been revised for deploying forest personnel in place of Police, with scope for involving local people like the Van Gujjars.

19. Special advisories issued for *in-situ* build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.

Tiger Deaths

316. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to statistics of an NGO, Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), 75 tiger deaths have been reported this year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Chinese military officials were involved in illegal trade in Tiger and Leopard skins and other body parts from India;

(d) whether Debbie Banks of Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) a London based NGO which visited China in August, 2009 to investigate the illegal trade confirmed the involvement of Chinese military officials; and

(e) if so; the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) As reported by States and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, during 2009, mortality of 59 tigers (including seizure of 7 tiger skins) has taken place. The State-wise details are given in the Statement.

(c) and (d) It ts leamt that a foreign NGO, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), has investigated the illegal trade in Asian big cats in China during this year (2009), reporting purchase of wildlife articles by some officials in China.

(e) Reports are received from various sources on the illegal Wildlife trade linkages in various countries, and action is taken wherever necessary in respect of any connected crimes on Indian soil.

Statement

Tiger Mortality (as reported by States / Wildlife Crime Control Bureau)

(As on 13.11.2009)

Sl.No.	State	No. of tiger mortality	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1	Madhya Pradesh	13	-
2.	Assam	10	-

1	2	3	4
3.	Maharashtra	4	Includes seizure of 1 skin
4.	Uttarakhand	7	Includes seizure of 1 skin
5.	Karnataka	9	
6.	Rajasthan	3	
7.	West Bengal	2	
8.	Uttar Pradesh	3	
9.	Tamil Nadu	1	Includes seizure of 1 skin
10,	Andhra Pradesh	2	Includes seizure of 2 skins
11.	Goa	1	
12.	Orissa	1	
13.	Delhi	2	Includes seizure of 2 skins
14.	Kerala	1	
	Total :	59	Includes seizure of 7 skins

Tiger Population

317. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tiger population and forest areas during the last five years, State-wise; and

(b) the concrete steps taken to preserve and increase the forest areas and the population of tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) As per the findings of the recent All India tiger estimation in 2008 using the refined methodology, the total country-level populaiion of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The State-wise tiger population and area of tiger occupied landscapes are indicated in Statement-I (See below). The new findings are based on spatial occupancy of tigers and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework, which is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks. The said findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of the 17 tiger States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

(b) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation of tigers and its habitat are given in the Statement (Refer to the Statement-III appended to the answer to US. No. 315 PART (F)]